the vacancies reserved for the reserved categories.

Memorandum regarding Khadi Industry

*174. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI JOY NADUKKARA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of persons connected with Khadi Industry has submitted a memorandum during a recent meeting with Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of this memorandum;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a demand has also been made to Government to withdraw the order by which rebate given by Government on the sale of Khadi, has been stopped;

(d) if so, whether Government have decided to consider this demand;

(e) if so, decision taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues raised in the memorandum relate to continuance of rebate scheme for Khadi, allocation of additional Rs. 100 crores to clear the back-log of rebate claims pending for payment with KVIC, reduction in the rate of interest on loans for Village Industry projects and liberal budgetary support for the KVI sector.

(c) to (f) The rebate scheme for Khadi has been continued for the year 1996-97.

Privatisation of Iron Ore Mines

*175. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of Government on privatisation of iron ore mines of Bailadila owned by NDMC in particular and others in general;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for the exploration, mining and industrial use of different ore deposits of North East in general and Assam in particular;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per National Mineral Policy, 1993 iron ore mining was completely opened up for the private sector. Integrated steel plants of SAIL, IISCO and TISCO have captive iron ore mines. Emerging steel majors have also been seeking iron ore deposits for captive mining.

The Government accorded approval to the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) vide its letter dated 12/13.6.95 for development of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B in the joint venture. Based on the Government approval, N.M.D.C. had submitted its application for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the joint venture company. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have recommended the proposal vide their letter dated 6.1.96 and have sought prior approval of the Central Government from the Ministry of Mines, as required under the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957, for transfer of mining lease of Bailadila deposit 11-B in favour of the Joint Venture Company. The Ministry of Mines have approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that "the State Government, the proposed joint venture company, i.e. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Limited and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the

transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument they may be executed between the parties".

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta granted a stay order on the transfer of the lease of 11-B on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Members of Parliament. The writ petition had been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.1996. However, the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the Joint Venture Company against this order the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court ordered on 14.5.96 that the interim stay granted by the learned trial judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy against the order dismissing the original writ petition on jurisdiction grounds. These appeals are yet to come up before the regular bench.

The subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Court, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

(b) and (c) According to Ministry of Mines a proposal has recently been received by F.I.P.B. for mining of limestone in Assam and its export to Bangladesh. This proposal has been supported by the Ministry of Mines.

A list of cases for grant of prospecting licence/mining lease approved during 1995-96 by Ministry of Mines is given below:

	Mining Lease	Prospecting Licence
Assam	One case of Limestone. One transfer case of Limestone	
Meghalaya	—	One case of Limestone.

(d) In view of reply at (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

Reservation for Women in Government JOBS

*176. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to take appropriate measures for 33% job reservation in Government establishments for women; and

(b) in what manner this job reservation shall benefit women, particularly belonging to weakest strata of our society without being uplifted in respect of education and skill?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The proposal to provide for reservation to women in jobs under the Central Government is under consideration.

Acute Shortage of Essential Supplies in some parts of the Country

*177. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in Indian Express dated the 18th March, 1996 stating that States like West Bengal, Maharashtra, etc. were starving of their allotted quota of wheat and rice resulting in hard hitting suffering to the poorer sections of the population who draw their sustenance from Public Distribution